(c) the amount of loan granted and the interest realized; and

(d) the reasons for grant of concessional loan and the loss caused in interest thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY): (a) Kudermukh Iron and Steel Company Limited (KISCO), a Joint Venture Company of Kudremukh Iron Ore Company Ltd. (KIOCL), Metallurgical & Engineering Consultants (India) Ltd. (MECON), and Metal Scrap Trade Corporation (MSTC), is currently manufacturing Low Sulphur Low Phospherous Pig Iron.

(b) KIOCL has contributed Rs. 50 crores towards equity in the joint venture and has been allotted 102 Equity Shares of Rs 10 each. The balance amount is with the Joint Venture Company as Share Application money pending allotment. Full allotment of shares is contingent on realisation of matching equity from the market. Till date, the market scenario has not been conducive for a public issue.

(c) and (d) A loan of Rs. 22750 lakhs given by KIOCL is outstanding as on 31st March, 2003 from the Joint Venture Company. This loan was given to enable KISCO to fully operationalise its pig iron production operations. The loan is granted subject to the condition that the interest accrued till March, 2003 shall be payable by KISCO to KIOCL in three annual instalments commencing from the year 2003-2004. The interest @ 10% per annum is higher than the standard rate made public under Section 49 of RBI Act, 1934 and hence, the loan is not concessional and as such, till date, there has not been a loss to KIOCL.

Expansion of area under Bamboo

*282. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have announced any scheme to expand the area under bamboo;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government propose to encourage State Governments to grow bamboo in degraded lands under their control; if so, the details thereof; and

(d) whether Government propose to give any assistance to State Governments for this purpose; if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BALLU): (a) and (b) The Planning Commission has prepared a report on 'National Mission on Bamboo Technology and Trade Development'. Various components and the financial requirements under the Mission have been envisaged as under:

	(Rs. in crores)
• Bamboo Plantation (2million ha)	2000.00
• Technology development and transfer for planting material	53.00
• Technology intervention on process and products including standards and codes	139.00
• Handicrafts development including training	275.00
• Trade and Market Development	125.00
• Technology Development	16.00
Total	2608.00

(c) and (d) Under the 'National Mission on Bamboo Technology and Trade Development' bamboo plantations over two million ha are envisaged to be undertaken through various agencies and interventions. The Ministry of Agriculture has been designated as the Nodal Ministry for preparation of Action Plan for implementation of the recommendations of the Reports.

Improvement in GER for boys and girls in Orissa

*283. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of children (boys and girls separately) in age group of 6 to 14 years, who go to school in Orissa;

(b) what are the latest figures for Gross Enrollment Ratio (GER) and dropout ratio for boys and girls at primary level in Orissa; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to improve the GER especially for girls in Orissa?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) to (c) According to the information